

RESOLUTION TO AMEND CANON I, Section 1.9

Proposer: Steven D. Marshall, Esq., Chair of Diocesan Canons Committee

Resolved, that Canon I, Sec. 1.9 be amended to read as follows:

A quorum of the Convention, except as otherwise provided, shall be not less than one third of the Clergy entitled to vote and Delegates from not less than one-third of the Parishes and Missions entitled to representation, provided the Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor (if there be one) be present. But in their absence, such number shall not have power to do more than receive the usual reports and elect the ordinary officers. In the election of a Bishop, a majority of the Clergy entitled to vote in that Convention shall be present, and two-thirds of all Parishes and Missions entitled to send Delegates shall be represented, before the Convention can proceed. A Parish or Mission shall be entitled to send Delegates to a Special Convention when a Bishop is to be elected if it was represented by Delegates in at least two out of five immediately preceding conventions.

Explanation:

The Canons Committee recommends that the following amendment to Canon I, Sec. 1.9 be adopted under the provisions of Canon 37.2, which requires a 2/3rds majority vote in each order for adoption so that it will take effect prior to the Special Election for Bishop in 2019.

It appears to the Committee that the language of Canon I, Sec. 1.9 was inadvertently modified in the 1998 Convention Journal by the omission of an important clause resulting in a nonsensical sentence regarding the quorum required for the election of a Bishop, to wit:

“In the election of a Bishop, a majority, of the Clergy entitled to send Delegates shall be represented, before the Convention can proceed...”. In as much as Clergy don’t send Delegates, the sentence does not parse. Unfortunately, this error was not “caught” until recently read by the Chancellor in anticipation of next year’s Special Convention.

In Journals prior to 1998 the sentence read as follows: “In the election of a Bishop, a majority of the Clergy entitled to vote in that Convention shall be present, and two-thirds of all Parishes and Missions entitled to send Delegates shall be represented, before the Convention can proceed ...”

Since the incorrect language has persisted for 20 years, the Committee recommends that the language be re-adopted in its correct form, and that a clarification also be made regarding how many Conventions a parish or mission may miss before they are not entitled to send delegates to a Special Convention when a Bishop is to be elected. This latter clarification will align the electing convention voting eligibility of congregations with that of clergy.

Existing Canon I, Sec. 1.9 reads as follows:

9. A quorum of the Convention, except as otherwise provided, shall be not less than one-third of the Clergy entitled to vote and Delegates from not less than one-third of the Parishes and Missions entitled to representation, provided the Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor (if there be one) be present. But in their absence, such number shall not have power to do more than receive the usual reports and elect the ordinary officers. In the election of a Bishop, a majority, of the Clergy entitled to send Delegates shall be represented, before the Convention can proceed; but no Parish or Mission shall be entitled to send Delegates to a Special Convention when a Bishop is to be elected which has failed to be represented by Delegates in as many as two of the five Annual Conventions immediately preceding.

Proposed Canon I, Sec. 1.9 (new language underlined, language to be deleted struck through):

9. A quorum of the Convention, except as otherwise provided, shall be not less than one-third of the Clergy entitled to vote and Delegates from not less than one-third of the Parishes and Missions entitled to representation, provided the Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor (if there be one) be present. But in their absence, such number shall not have power to do more than receive the usual reports and elect the ordinary officers. In the election of a Bishop, a majority, of the Clergy entitled to vote in that Convention shall be present, and two-thirds of all Parishes and Missions entitled to send Delegates shall be represented, before the Convention can proceed, ~~;- but no~~ A Parish or Mission shall be entitled to send Delegates to a Special Convention when a Bishop is to be elected if it was ~~which has failed to be~~ represented by Delegates in at least ~~as many as two~~ out of the five Annual ~~Conventions~~ immediately preceding conventions.